

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

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DEPT PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IN, US

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION KAMATH ART ON FOREIGN SCHOLARS QUOTAS

FOLLOWING REPEATED ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS

DATED 06 SEP 73 IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

BOMBAY 1744

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS/ SCUL, IN, US

SUBJ: LOCAL REACTION KAMATH ART ON FOREIGN SCHOLARS QUOTAS

REF: NEW DELHI 10299

1. I HAVE BEEN PLEASED BY NUMBER OF INDIAN FRIENDS YESTERDAY
(AT ROTARY LUNCHEON INDO AMERICAN SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING LAST EVE DINNER THEREAFTER) WHO TOOK OCCASION TO
EXPRESS THEIR SURPRISE AND DISBELIEF TO ME OVER GOI'S DECISION
TO LIMIT AMERICAN (AND OTHER) SCHOLARS TO 20 ASKING WHY AND WHY
NOW OF ALL TIMES. ALL ARE BAFFLED AS TO GOI RATIONALE. GUIDE
LINES FOR SCHOLARS THEY CAN UNDERSTAND BUT NUMBERS NO. ALL
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THIS DECISION WILL SET BACK

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MOVEMENT TWOARD IMPROVED INDO AMERICAN RELATIONS.

2. I WAS PARTICULARLY HEARTENED TO HAVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF IAS WITHOUT INSPIRATION FROM ME TAKE POSITION THAT SOCIETY SHOULD TAKE SOME STEPS TO REFLECT ITS CONCERN AND TO CONSIDER WAYS TO INFLUENCE GOI ON THIS SCORE. HAVING RECORDED ITS DISSATISFACTION WITH USG IN 1971 I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THEY CAN LOOK AT BOTH SIDES.

3. DURING SEPTEMBER 5 LUNCHEON AT MY RESIDENCE EX MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SC SHUKLA OPINED THAT PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER GOI LEADERS MUST NOT HAVE KNOWN OF DECISION WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE" SHUKLA WHOSE BROTHER VC SHUKLA IS GOI MINISTER OF STATE IN NEW DELHI IS CLOSE TO HOME MINISTER DIKSHIT AND WELL PLUGGED INTO DELHI BUREAUCRACY. HE ALSO MAY BE MADHYA PRADESH'S NEXT CHIEF MINISTER

4. CONGEN EMPLOYEE ATTENDING SEPTEMBER 5 SESSION OF STATE LEGISLATURE FOUND GENERAL LACK OF INTEREST IN PRESS REPORTS ON FOREIGN SCHOLAR QUOTAS. SEVERAL MLA'S FROM BOMBAY POONA AREA EXPRESSED CONFUSION OVER RATIONALE BEHIND DECISION AND GENERAL REGRET. ONE ECHOED SC SHUKLA'S GUESS THAT OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RATHER THAN POLITICIANS AT CABINET LEVEL BEHIND DECISION.

5. SEPTMEBER 5 EDITORIAL COMMENT ON FOREIGN SCHOLARS QUOTA IN BOMBAY PRESS LIMITED TO SINGLE BUT NOTABLE PIECE IN LARGEST MARATHI DALY, MAHARASHTRA TIMES, WHICH CLOSELY LINKED TO FINANCE MINISTERS YB CHAVAN. INFLUENTIAL EDITOR GOVING TALWALKAR AUTHORED EDITORIAL WHICH TITLED "ILLITERATE DECISION". EDITORIAL MINCED FEW WORDS IN ATTACKING DECISION. HELD MRS GANDHI GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERECTING WALLS OF IGNORANCE AROUND INDIA THEREBY "BURYING LIBERALISM OF GANDHI NEHRU AND TAGORE". EDITORIAL STATED THAT AMERICAN SCHOLARS WOULD SUFFER MOST REFUTING PERIODIC CHARGES OF CIA INFILTRATION US STUDENT COMMUNITY IN INDIA, IT CHALLENGED GOI IDENTIFY ANY SPECIFIC CASES INVOLVING CIA OR KGB PENTRATION EDITORIAL ALSO PRAISED OBJECTIVITY OF FOREIGN SCHOLARS AND RIDICULED GOI REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOLARS WORK FOR INDIAN DEGREES. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY DEMANDING GOI WITHDRAW DECISION IMMEDIATELY.

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6. COMMENT: WE EXPECT MORE CRITICISM FROM PRESS,PUBLIC AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITY ON GOI DECISION.
BANE

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